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Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*Richard J. Coldren*  
Attorney for Applicant



Date: 7 October 2004

**Appl. No.:** 10/689,312  
**Applicant(s):** Mark Beaumont  
**Filed:** 20 October 2003  
**Title:** METHOD FOR USING EXTREMA TO LOAD BALANCE A LOOP OF PARALLEL  
PROCESSING ELEMENTS

**Art Unit:** 2183  
**Examiner:** Not yet assigned

**Docket No.:** DB001067-000

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

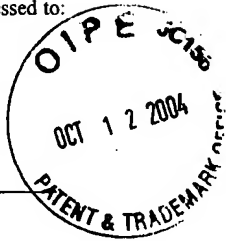
**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.

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**TRANSMITTAL**

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned application, please find the following:

- A Preliminary Amendment.

Also enclosed is a return postcard. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of the above-reference correspondence. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard J. Coldren*

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Dated: 7 October 2004